

Islip, NY – Islip Town Councilman Gene Parrington has announced the formation of a Graffiti and Litter Removal Task Force as part of a comprehensive new approach to fighting what has become one of the top quality-of-life issues in the Town of Islip.

The Task Force will address the Town's graffiti problems by focusing on prevention and education, as well as considering new measures and programs to strengthen the Town's approach to graffiti and litter removal.

"I am proud to be able to assemble this talented group of community activists, all of whom care deeply about keeping our community clean and safe," said Islip Town Councilman Gene Parrington. "When graffiti is allowed to exist, property values decrease, neighborhoods become hot spots for criminal activity, and the aesthetic qualities of our communities are destroyed. This task force will be looking at this growing problem from every angle, and we welcome the input of other community members."

At a December 15, 2009 Town Board meeting an amendment was made to the Town's "Graffiti Ordinance" imposing stricter fines and penalties on those who spread graffiti. In addition, a graffiti removal program, the first of its kind on the East Coast, was established, based around the acquisition of a state-of-the-art graffiti removal truck being purchased through a New York State grant.

The members of the task force, appointed to one-year terms, are Anthony Quintal, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce; Nancy Manfredonia, Central Islip Civic Council; Bob Draffin, Bayport Civic Association; Rick Ammirati, Holbrook Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Persico, Bohemia Civic Association; Mary Reid, resident; Joe DiPalma, West Islip Chamber of Commerce; Donna Periconi, Bay Shore Chamber of Commerce; and Councilman Parrington.

The Task Force will meet throughout the year and its duties shall include: assessing the scope and nature of the Town's graffiti problems; discussing prevention and education; examining the effectiveness of existing provisions of laws aimed at curbing graffiti vandalism; and proposing amendments to strengthen the Town's legislation. For more information about the Graffiti Task Force, call Councilman Parrington's office at 589-0234.